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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

Feb. 25, 2003

Contact: Phil Bain, Registrar, 243-2412; George Dennison, President, 243-2311.

UM-MISSOULA SETS SPRING ENROLLMENT RECORD

MISSOULA –

If The University of Montana's enrollment report is starting to sound like a broken record, that's because it is – again.

The Missoula campus posted its largest spring semester enrollment in UM's 110-year history with a total of 12,626 students, an increase of 212 over last spring's headcount of 12,414.

The spring record breaker comes on the tail of an all-time high enrollment of 13,058 students during fall semester 2002. Spring semester headcount traditionally is lower than in the fall.

In addition, full-time equivalents (FTE) rose from 10,773 in spring 2002 to 10,897 this year. An FTE represents 15 undergraduate or 12 graduate semester credits. However, the credit load of an average student decreased by a fraction.

"I think that's very good," UM President George Dennison said of the overall increases. "It indicates that we are still serving students' needs. And it's important to note that students are staying with us.

"On the other hand, there's a small decline in credit hours per head, and that's of concern to us. It's something we will look closely at to make sure we're always offering enough course sections to meet students' needs."

The UM College of Technology experienced the highest single increase in student headcount with a total enrollment of 931, compared with 826 a year ago.

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